

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-20 are allowed. Claims 6,7, and 10-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has opted to accept the allowable subject matter to secure early issuance of a patent and reserves its right to pursue the rejected claims in a properly filed continuation application.

To expedite prosecution, claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 5 from which it depends as required by the Examiner for allowance. Claim 7 depends for claim 6 so is allowable in view of the current amendment to, and allowance of, claim 6. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 6 and thus is allowable for the same reasons as claim 7. Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and is therefore also allowable in view of the dependency from amended claim 6.

Likewise, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1, 8 and 9 from which it depends as required by the Examiner for allowance. Claim 11-14 each depend from claim 10 and thus are allowable in view of the current amendment to claim 10. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from amended claim 10 and thus are now in a condition for allowance.

Claims 17-20 were allowed. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled. In view of the foregoing, claims 6-20 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8,9, 15 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Danssaert et al. (US 5,525,300). Applicant does not acquiesce in

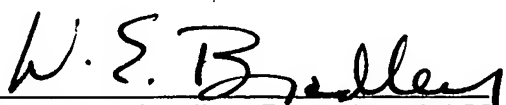
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this rejection and reserves its right to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims in one or more continuation applications. The current amendment is being filed solely for the purpose of expediting issuance of a patent on the allowed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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